

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-18, 22 and 23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 17 and 18 are amended, and claims 22 and 23 are added. No new matter is added by any of these amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 3, 4, 11, 12 and 15 contain allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants amend claims 1 and 17 to recite the features of claim 3, claims 8 and 18 to recite the features of claim 15, and to correct the dependency of claim 4. Additionally, Applicants add claims 22 and 23 to recite the features of claims 1 and 15.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5-10, 13, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over paper “Gas Turbine Engine Condition Monitoring Using Statistical and Neural Network Methods” by Patel *et al.*, *IEE Colloquium on Modeling and Signal Processing for Fault Diagnosis*, Digest 1996/260, pp. 171-176

This rejection has been rendered moot by the incorporation of the features of claim 3 into claims 1 and 17, the incorporation of the features of claim 15 into claims 8 and 18, and the incorporation of the features of claims 1 and 15 into added claims 22 and 23. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gerhard W. Thielman
Registration No. 43,186

JAO:GWT/gwt

Date: November 3, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--